

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

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R 262214Z AUG 75
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DEA MIAMI
AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SNAR CO
SUBJECT: COCAINE SMUGGLING VIA BANANA BOATS (GFT: OPERATION
BANANAS)

REF: BOGOTA 7981; DEA 12971; STATE 197576; BROWN-
SHURTLEFF TELCON AUG 25

SUMMARY: NARCOR DISCUSSED COCAINE SMUGGLING WITH UNION
DE BANANEROS PRESIDENT RODRIGO JIMENEZ IN MEDELLIN AUGUST
22 AND WAS INFORMED THAT ARMY, DAS, ANTIOQUIA GOVERNMENT
AND UNION ALREADY IMPLEMENTING PLAN AIMED AT HALTING
DRUG TRAFFICKING FROM TURBO. DEA STILL WORKING WITH
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL AND DIRGEN GOC CUSTOMS ON
OPERATION BANANAS OUTLINED REFTEL. TURBO PROLEM IS
CLOSELY RELATED TO GRANCOLOMBIANA DRUG TRAFFICKING AND
NARCOR PREPARED DISCUSS BOTH ISSUES DURING CONSULTATIONS
IN WASHINGTON WEEK OF SEPT SEVEN.

1. ACCORDING TO UNION DE BANANEROS PRESIDENT JIMENEZ,
ANTIOQUIA GOVERNMENT, DEPT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SECURITY (DAS),
COLOMBIAN ARMY AND UNION ARE COORDINATING EFFORTS AGAINST
COCAINE SMUGGLING FROM TURBO. DAS CHIEF GENERAL MATAALLANA
HAS AGREED TO ESTABLISH 10-MAN NARCOTICS UNIT IN TURBO

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CONTROL ALL ACCESS TO BANANA BOATS AND CONDUCT SEARCH-

SURVEILLANCE OPERATIONS. ARMY INTELLIGENCE IS ASSIGNING OFFICERS TO WORK UNDERCOVER POSING AS UNION DE BANANEROS FUNCTIONARIES AS FURTHER SURVEILLANCE MEASURE. FANTIOQUI-GOVERNMENT PLANS PROVIDE MOTOR LAUNCH FOR USE BY DAS NACRO UNIT AT TURBO AND WILL PAY BONUSES TO DAS NARCO AGENTS WORKING OPERATION. FOR ITS PART, UNION DE BANANEROS WILL PROVIDE TWO JEEPS FOR DAS AGENTS AND DEFRAID OPERATING REPAIR COSTS FOR LAUNCH AND VEHICLES INVOLVED IN OPERATION. FINALLY, PORT AUTHORITIES PLAN PROHIBIT BANANA BOAT CREWS FROM DISEMBARKING AT TURBO.

2. FOR OUR PART, DEA IS COORDINATING OPERATION BANANAS (AS OUTLINED REFTTEL) WITH GOC CUSTOMS AND ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR JUDICIAL POLICE (AAGJP) DR SANCHEZ MENDEZ. CUSTOMS DIRGEN OCAMPO HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPAL WITH DEA PROPOSALS AND WILL SEND SMALL TEAM TO TURBO THIS WEEK BEGIN PRELIMINARY INTELLIGENCE PROBE. COORDINATION AMONG DAS, CUSTOMS AND ANTIOQUIA GOVERNMENT WILL BE UNDERTAKEN BY AAGJP, WHO IS BRIEFED ON ACTIONS BEING UNDERTAKEN PER PARA ONE ABOVE.

3. FYI. SAIC GONZALEZ MET WITH AAGJP SANCHEZ MENDEZ TODAY AND FOUND THAT HE WISHES TO MOVE CAREFULLY AND DELIBERATELY IN IMPLEMENTING OPERATION BANANAS. WITH NEW GOVERNOR SLATED TAKE OFFICE IN ANTIOQUIA NEXT WEEK AND WITH DAS AND ARMY INTELLIGENCE ALREADY INVOLVED IN PLANNED INTERDICTION OPERATIONS AT TURBO, AAGJP FACES UNUSUALLY DIFFICULT PROBLEMS IN FULFILLING HIS STATUTORY ROLE OF COORDINATING AND DIRECTING THIS PARTICULAR NARCOTICS OPERATION. END FYI.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON SUGGESTIONS ON OTHER STEPS WE MIGHT TAKE IN CONCERT WITH GOC AGENCIES TO COMBAT TURBO TRAFFICKING. BELIEVE THAT ACTIONS APPLIED TO TURBO BANANA BOATS MIGHT ALSO BE APPLIED TO GRANCOLOMBIANA LINES BECAUSE THE TWO PROBLEMS ARE CLOSELY RELATED NARCOR PREPARED DISCUSS BOTH ISSUES DURING UPCOMING WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS. VAKY

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